GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2613
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
EFFECTS OF CASTE ON STUDENTS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of caste and its effect on the development of students in schools and colleges in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make it optional for students to disclose/ declare their caste, subject to their decision whether or not to avail free scholarships and other benefits attached to caste with a view to help eradicate caste system in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): It is recognized that caste has an impact on access to education and on such factors as enrolment, retention and successful completion of school. The National Policy on Education, 1986 as modified in 1992, aims at ensuring that, upto a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality.
In the field of higher Education also, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students belonging to the weaker sections is low compared to the national GER. Article 15(5) of the Constitution introduced through the Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005 provides the broad national policy in this regard.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.